

REMARKS

The Examiner has alleged that the following groups of claims each constitute a separately patentable invention:

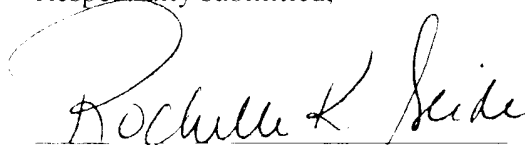
Invention Group I: Claims 1-7;
Invention Group II: Claim 8;
Invention Group III: Claim 9-20;
Invention Group IV: Claims 21-30;
Invention Group V: Claims 31-35.

In response, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group III with traverse in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claims in further applicaitons. However, Applicants assert that Groups III and IV are not sufficiently independent and distinct so as to require restriction in the present case.

The claims of Group III relate to methods of inhibiting osteoclast formation while the claims of Group IV relate to methods of inhibiting bone resorption. Applicants assert that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that osteoclasts are large multinuclear cells that produce, *inter alia*, physiological and pathological resorption of bone. While not limiting the invention to any particular mechanism, one skilled in the art would reasonably expect that inhibition of osteoclast formation would also inhibit bone resorption. Therefore, at least Groups III and IV lack the requisite level of independence and distinctiveness to make restriction necessary. Moreover, Applicants assert that consideration of Groups III and IV together would not pose an unreasonable search burden. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of at least the claims of Groups III and IV.

Applicants do not believe any fee is due with this submission. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees required with this submission from Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Two copies of this paper are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rochelle K. Seide", written over a horizontal line.

Rochelle K. Seide
PTO Reg. No. 32,300

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